

On motion of Mr. Sinclair, the regular order of business was

further postponed and the rules suspended to allow the reading of the following message from the Governor :

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Austin, August 4, 1870.

Hon. IRA H. EVANS,

Speaker of the House of Representatives :

SIR : I herewith return to your House, where it originated, "An Act to improve the sanitary condition of the city of Galveston, Texas, and to grant certain privileges to Thomas Sewell and his associates, to be known as the Texas Sanitary and Fertilizing Company." This act is objectionable among other respects in the fact that it directly violates section 17, article 12, of the constitution, which provides that "every law enacted by the Legislature shall embrace *but one object*, and that shall be expressed in the title." This provides in sections one, two, three and four for improving the health of the city of Galveston, and then passing entirely from that subject proceeds in sections five and six to incorporate a company to be known as the "Texas Sanitary and Fertilizing Company."

The act provides a very arbitrary and wholesale change in the manner of constructing residences and other buildings at Galveston, which can only be effected at very considerable expense to the people of that city, and is not called for by any apparent necessity. It is not believed that a large number, or in fact any, of the people of Galveston desire this extraordinary measure.

It is evidently the covert purpose of the act to force the people of Galveston to purchase a patented "earth closet," which the said "Texas Sanitary and Fertilizing Company," has for sale, and then to compel the employment of said company in the keeping these closets in order at the rate of one dollar each per month. It must operate oppressively on the people of that city, and offers no corresponding good. If this mode of constructing "water closets" has the sanitary advantages claimed for it by its friends, it will work its way to the confidence of the public without this forcing process.

I conclude that in the hurry of legislation the objections to this measure have not received due consideration.

Very respectfully,

EDMUND J. DAVIS,

Governor.

On motion of Mr. Posey the message was referred to the Judiciary Committee.